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Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/727/Add.2)]

46/206. Report of the Committee for Development Planning: criteria for identifying the least developed countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990, on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Recalling also the recommendation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on the criteria for identifying the least developed among developing countries, 1/

Taking note of paragraph (b) of Economic and Social Council decision 1991/275 of 26 July 1991, on chapter V of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-seventh session, 2/

Recognizing that the decision to include any country in the group of least developed countries should be made with its due consent,

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1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18).

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 11 (E/1991/32).

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1. Notes with appreciation the new criteria for identifying the least developed among the developing countries and the graduation rules recommended by the Committee for Development Planning, and requests the Committee to consider further possible improvements in the criteria and their applications and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Economic and Social Council;

2. Requests the Committee for Development Planning to undertake every three years a general review of the list of low-income countries, with a view to identifying which of those countries should qualify for inclusion in, or should be graduated from, the list of least developed countries, and to present this review to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

3. Decides that the General Assembly will act on the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning for the inclusion of a country in the list of least developed countries, provided the country concerned has signified its consent;

4. Stresses that there is need for a smooth transition of the countries graduating out of the group of least developed countries, with a view to avoiding disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects, and invites Governments, international organizations and other concerned parties to take appropriate steps to ensure such a smooth transition;

5. Decides, in this context, that the graduation of a country will be completed following a transitional period of three years, which will commence immediately after the General Assembly has taken note of the finding of the Committee for Development Planning to graduate that country;

6. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning regarding the inclusion of Cambodia, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia in the list of least developed countries; 3/

7. Takes note of the finding of the Committee for Development Planning to graduate Botswana from the list of least developed countries, and decides that its graduation from the list will be completed following a transition period of three years, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present resolution;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the Conference at its eighth session on the resource and other implications of the application of the new criteria for identifying the least developed countries on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to follow his report to the Conference with a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the same subject.

79th plenary meeting
20 December 1991

3/ Ibid., para. 256.